

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The current status of all claims in the Application is as follows:

1. (CANCELED)

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CANCELED)

6. (ORIGINAL) A circuit for operating high-pressure discharge lamps, the circuit having a voltage converter for the purpose of supplying energy to a load circuit which is provided with connections for a high-pressure discharge lamp (La) and for the secondary winding (L1b) of a starting transformer (T1) of a pulse starting device which serves the purpose of starting the gas discharge in the high-pressure discharge lamp (La), characterized in that at least one capacitor (C1), which is connected in series with the secondary winding (L1b) of the starting transformer (T1) when the pulse starting device is connected, is arranged in the load circuit, the capacitance of the capacitor (C51) being dimensioned such that it essentially represents a short circuit for the starting pulses generated by the pulse starting device and the capacitor (C51) is charged, before the gas discharge in the lamp is started, to a DC voltage which, together with the starting pulse or the starting pulses of the starting transformer (T1), brings about starting of the gas discharge in the lamp.

7. (CANCELED)

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CANCELED)

13. (ORIGINAL) A pulse starting device for a high-pressure discharge lamp having a starting transformer (T1) for the purpose of producing starting pulses, characterized in that the starting device has at least one capacitor (C51), which is connected in series with the secondary winding (L1b) of the starting transformer (T1), and whose capacitance is dimensioned such that it essentially represents a short circuit for the starting pulses generated by the pulse starting device and the capacitor (C51) is charged, before the gas discharge in the lamp is started, to a DC voltage which, together with the starting pulse or the starting pulses of the starting transformer (T1), brings about starting of the gas discharge in the lamp (La).

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The circuit as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the capacitor (C1; C51) is charged, before the gas discharge in the lamp (La) is started, to a DC voltage greater than 300 volts.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The pulse starting device as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the capacitor (C1; C51) is charged, before the gas discharge in the lamp (La) is started, to a DC voltage greater than 300 volts.